

SERVE ILLINOIS



State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Department of Human Services
Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary

Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

A PREVENTION FIRST Publication

Fall 2007

AmeriCorps Opening Day Draws Nearly 700

The annual AmeriCorps Opening Day Ceremonies were held in Springfield, IL on Oct. 24, 2007. Members gathered at the Prairie Capital Convention Center to hear a number of dignitaries speak along with keynote R. Dale Evans, social services coordinator with the Housing Authority of Joliet. After lunch, nearly 700 Members paraded through downtown under a police and fire escort to the beat of the Springfield High School Drum Corps. The Members then gathered on the front lawn of the Illinois State Capitol and in front of the Abraham Lincoln statue. Illinois AmeriCorps Members were officially sworn in by reciting the AmeriCorps Pledge.

Special guests included Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn; Illinois Department of Human Services Secretary Carol Adams; Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin, and the newly installed SERVE ILLINOIS Commissioners. Emceeding the event was Springfield's ABC Channel 20 news anchor Jerry Lambert.



AmeriCorps Members march to the State Capitol in Springfield



AmeriCorps Members take their oath of service

The morning's keynote speaker, R. Dale Evans, encouraged new and continuing AmeriCorps Members and referenced the role that service played in his life as a young man. "Your role in the upcoming year is to 'get things done' in your community or school, in your AmeriCorps program, and in your own life and home, to help make America a better place, one person and place at a time," said Evans. "The results of your AmeriCorps service will always be something to be proud of, by keeping this focus."

Governor Appoints New Commissioners

Commission unveils new SERVE ILLINOIS logo

In September 2007, the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service received much anticipated commissioner appointments from the Office of the Governor to serve on this bipartisan, state service commission. A commissioner orientation was held October 23-24 in Springfield, in conjunction with Illinois AmeriCorps' Opening Day. The Commission unveiled its new logo at the Opening Day Ceremony. The commissioners are listed on page three of this newsletter.



From the Secretary



Once again, it is time to welcome all of the new and returning Illinois AmeriCorps Members to the start of their year of service. Just last month, nearly 700 AmeriCorps Members took their oath of service on the front lawn of the Illinois State Capitol – and what an inspiring sight it was! We wish them much success in their own leadership and civic development, as well as success in meeting their national service objectives.

It is also timely this fall to emphasize the importance of the installation of a newly-appointed State Service Commission for Illinois. The Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service has embarked on some lofty and important goals for the coming year:

- Increase Illinois' volunteerism rate;
- Streamline AmeriCorps administrative responsibilities;
- Involve more people with disabilities in national and community service;
- Develop a regionally-based Volunteer Management Network; and
- Expand the use of Illinois AmeriCorps programs' education award dollars.

We at the Illinois Department of Human Services wish the new commission all the best and we are excited to support them in these endeavors.

The coming year promises to be an exciting and productive one for ICVCS, its AmeriCorps programs and members, and for all the local not-for-profit agencies that partner with the commission to improve Illinois communities. We at DHS applaud you, and we support you in your work, for it is in working together that we succeed.

Thank you again for your commitment to the people of Illinois.

Carol L. Adams, Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

From the Chair



I am very pleased to welcome aboard all of the new and returning commissioners to the SERVE ILLINOIS Commission this fall! We had an excellent orientation in October and I look forward to working with each of you as we go about the promotion and support of volunteerism and service across the state of Illinois.

For all of our readers, I also want to recognize the longstanding members of the commission who have continued to serve through the appointment/re-appointment process, and have certainly taken on more than their "fair share" of volunteer work over the past year. In particular, I want to thank Fred Rodriguez of Western Springs and Dorothy Miaso of Chicago for their longstanding commitment to the commission. Fred is always willing to represent us at AmeriCorps service projects and events, volunteer recognition ceremonies, and other National Service and volunteerism happenings in any part of the state. Dorothy, while she will not be returning as a commissioner, has served for many years in this capacity and continues to operate Literacy Volunteers of Illinois, an AmeriCorps*State program in Chicago. Thanks, Fred and Dorothy, for your dedication to the important calling of public and volunteer service!

In 2008, I know the staff and representatives of the SERVE ILLINOIS Commission have many important initiatives to see through. We look forward to the expansion of our community partnerships in traditional volunteerism, as well as another good year for our AmeriCorps*State programs. The commissioners continue to be very happy with the excellence of our commission staff and the very fine work they are accomplishing.

In Service,

Dave Lawrence, Chair
Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

Belleville RSVP Holds Luncheon

More than 550 people were honored on Sept. 14 when the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the Belleville Area, a part of the Southwestern Illinois College Programs and Services for Older Persons, held its annual recognition luncheon at Fischer's Restaurant in Belleville. Over the past year, more than 1,400 senior citizens in the RSVP Program contributed countless hours of volunteer work to help serve local communities. Seven individuals received Presidential Service Awards at the RSVP recognition luncheon. *These individuals completed more*

Presidential SERVICE AWARD Recipients

Nellie Forrest
Christina Hassett
Tommie Kamenec
Walter May
Elmer Reeb
Shirley Whitney
Carol Younger

than 4,000 hours of volunteer service to earn this honor. In addition, Lydia Endrejatits and Earl James received their 25-year service pins, while another six individuals received 20-year pins. Congratulations and a special thanks to these dedicated volunteers in the Belleville area.



Lydia Endrejatits and Earl James

RSVP of the Peninsula Director Honored

Georgia Smith, program director for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of the Peninsula at Shawnee Development Council in Karnak, was honored for her 10+ years of service to the Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference steering committee. See full conference story on page 5.



Georgia Smith is presented her plaque by members of the conference committee



The mission of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service is to improve Illinois communities by supporting and enhancing traditional volunteerism and community service and the administration of the AmeriCorps program.

www.illinois.gov/volunteer

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dave Lawrence, Chair, Savoy
Howard L. Lathan, Vice Chair, Chicago
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Dan Bassill, Park Ridge
Julian Brown, Naperville
Jocelyn D. Cheng, Chicago
Ted Gibbs, Chicago
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John Hosteny, Chicago
Nancy Jameson, Carthage
Rosemary Keefe, Spring Grove
Chris Koch, Bloomington
Terry Mason, Chicago
Bob McCammon, Waukegan
Arlan McClain, Dixon
Sheryl McGill, Chicago
Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, Arlington Heights
Jeffrey Piper, River Forest
Kelly Refett, LaSalle
Fred Rodriguez, Ph.D., Western Springs
Mythili Rundblad, Carbondale
Dana Starks, Chicago
Todd Stroger, Chicago
James Tyree, Chicago
Steven Wolfe, Wheaton

COMMISSION STAFF

Scott Kimmel, Executive Director
Deborah McCarrel, AmeriCorps Program Manager
Lisa Hooker, AmeriCorps Program Officer
Scott Niermann, Volunteer Programs Manager
Scott McFarland, Graduate Public Service Intern

IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT DHS

Ivonne Sambolin-Jones, Director
Division of Community Health and Prevention
Kim Fornero, Chief
Bureau of Community-Based and Primary Prevention

NUMBERS you should know

Each year hundreds of Illinois residents serve their country in the AmeriCorps program. Upon completion of their national service, these residents earn an Education Award that can be used for tuition at colleges and universities, or to pay-off student loans.

Value of Education Awards REDEEMED AT ILLINOIS COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Year	Number	Amount
2003	111	\$346,071
2004	191	\$519,417
2005	220	\$672,537
2006	253	\$813,010

- In 2006, 253 Illinois students redeemed more than \$813,000 in Education Awards at Illinois schools
- Persons who complete one-year of full-time national service in the AmeriCorps program earn a \$4,725 Education Award upon completion of their service
- In 2006, Illinois residents earned nearly \$2.2 million in AmeriCorps Education Awards
- Since March 1994, Illinois residents have earned more than \$45.7 million in Education Awards.

Using the AmeriCorps Education Award TOP TEN ILLINOIS SCHOOLS - 2006

Illinois College or University	No. of Persons Redeeming	Award Redemption Amount
1. Northwestern University	63	\$411,805
2. Roosevelt University	35	\$78,868
3. Loyola University of Chicago	11	\$36,257
4. American InterContinental University	5	\$28,923
5. Malcolm X College	15	\$22,303
6. Governors State University	10	\$21,492
7. Northern Illinois University	10	\$17,186
8. Lincoln Land Community College	8	\$15,854
9. Shawnee Community College	6	\$13,282
10. Loyola University	2	\$11,813

Data from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

LEADERCORPS update



Illinois LeaderCorps Class of 2007-2008

This fall, Illinois LeaderCorps began its second full year of cross-program collaboration and joint service activities. AmeriCorps Leaders will continue to further last year's initiatives, such as a statewide AmeriCorps Alumni network, while also adding focus to new areas. Our primary service activity focus for the year will be on cross-program collaboration during National AmeriCorps Week in May 2008. (More detail on plans for National AmeriCorps Week will be available in this newsletter column in future issues).

On Oct. 12, we welcomed a new class of LeaderCorps Members on our first statewide conference call of the year. Joel Newman, LeaderCorps President and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Quad Cities AmeriCorps Member, led the meeting of the nearly 40 new LeaderCorps representatives.

LeaderCorps also was acknowledged at the Illinois AmeriCorps Opening Day on Oct. 24 in Springfield. In his address to the nearly 700 AmeriCorps Members and Program Directors from across the state, Newman emphasized the goals of LeaderCorps, and asked members to stand and be recognized for their current and forthcoming efforts to foster communication and collaboration among programs statewide. This acknowledgement served to raise awareness about LeaderCorps among AmeriCorps Members, while programs were encouraged to utilize LeaderCorps Members as liaisons to the Commission and its other National Service and volunteerism partners.

Our annual Fall Leadership Conference was held Nov. 7-9 at Eagle Creek Resort in central Illinois. We welcomed back National Service trainer Jeff Birdsall, of Seattle, WA, who provided leadership development training and planning for the upcoming year. This year, a "train the trainer" format for the conference was implemented, so that Members can more easily transfer the skills learned at the conference to others at their AmeriCorps program site.

With a cadre of dedicated leaders from all parts of the state, the Illinois LeaderCorps Class of 2007-2008 anticipates a busy and successful year.

-- Submitted by Esther Lindström, LeaderCorps Secretary

MISSION

The mission of LeaderCorps is to connect AmeriCorps programs in Illinois through state, national and global days of service and to promote continued AmeriCorps alumni involvement.

13th Annual Illinois Statewide

K-16 Service-Learning Conference



On Fri., Oct. 19, the Office of Lt Gov. Pat Quinn, the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Resource Center co-sponsored the 2007 Illinois K-16 Statewide Service Learning Conference. More than 300 students, educators, and community

leaders committed to fostering an ethic of civic responsibility attended the all-day conference at Harry D. Jacobs High School (Algonquin, IL), a nationally recognized leader in service learning. Other sponsors included Illinois Campus Compact and the Illinois Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Service learning is an instructional method in which students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service projects. The one-day conference officially kicked-off an expanded service-learning program for Illinois with an emphasis on high-quality training and technical assistance

Dr. James Kielsmeier, president of the National Youth Leadership Council, served as the morning keynote speaker for the conference. Lt. Gov. Quinn addressed the conference attendees as the luncheon keynote.

"Through service learning, Illinois students become more actively engaged in their studies while becoming active leaders in their communities," Quinn said. "Whether developing a community recycling project, hosting a weekly story hour at a local library, or building houses with Habitat for Humanity, students across Illinois are bettering themselves and their communities."

Lt. Gov. Quinn has extensive experience in the field of service learning. Since 2002 the lieutenant governor's office has administered the innovative *Cesar Chavez Serve and Learn Program*, an educational initiative that teaches students about Cesar Chavez and the way his leadership changed the lives of thousands of migrant farm workers. Based on students' awareness of Chavez's life, they are encouraged to look within their own community and emulate his work, addressing present-day community issues.

As a passionate advocate for service learning, Lt. Gov. Quinn has consistently made his staff available to help educators develop service learning projects that have benefited military families, helped protect the environment and aided in community development and revitalization.

For more information, visit: www.ServeAndLearn.org

SIVC Draws 130 Participants



Lighting the Way for Service and Success

The Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference, now in its eleventh year, was held in Carterville on Sept. 27 at John A Logan College.

Despite some rain, turnout for the gathering was excellent. Nearly 130 people turned out for this regional capacity-building training opportunity, featuring workshop presenters from a variety of local, regional, and statewide organizations. In addition, local celebrities Dana Eikenberg, head women's basketball coach at Southern Illinois University (SIU) and Captain Bill Norwood, (Ret.) United Airlines Pilot and SIU Hall of Famer, paid a visit to motivate and encourage those volunteers and volunteer administrators

in attendance through their morning and afternoon keynotes, respectively. John A Logan College served as host to the conference, and provided 84

participants with general Continuing Education Units (CEU's) free of charge.

Participant reviews of the event were outstanding, with some additional suggestions for improving this longstanding conference supporting volunteerism and volunteer managers throughout southern Illinois. The steering committee will meet again this winter to begin planning for 2008. **If you would like to assist with this conference committee, or to be a presenter next year, call the SERVE ILLINOIS Commission at 800.592.9896 or stay tuned to www.sivc.net for more information.**



City Year Chicago kicks off the 2007-2008 Service Year

100 Members Strong!

In fall 2007, City Year Chicago was able to increase the size of their corps to include 100 Members. With that increase City Year Chicago is able to serve nine Chicago Public Schools with its “Whole School, Whole Child” model of service. AmeriCorps Members will be serving at the following schools: Milton Brunson Math & Science Elementary, James R. Doolittle East Elementary, Julia Ward Howe Elementary, Donoghue Campus, Marquette Elementary, Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary, North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School, Paul Revere Elementary, and the Spencer Math and Science Academy.



100 City Year AmeriCorps Members pose in front of Millennium Park's Cloud Gate Sculpture in Chicago

In addition to these nine teams, City Year Chicago is maintaining its Civic Engagement team to implement large scale service projects and engage key community and political stakeholders. 2007 marks the inaugural year of City Year Chicago's City Heroes Program. Similar to City Year Chicago's middle school program, Young Heroes, this new program will engage high school students in service and leadership development.

The majority of AmeriCorps members are responsible for executing City Year Chicago's holistic service model within Chicago's Public Schools. In order to respond to the multiple challenges facing public education, City Year Chicago's in-school services implement an integrated, three-part approach by providing:

- **Academic Support:** Reinforcing the skills that correlate with success and active learning in schools, while creating competence, self-confidence, and meaningful connection with a caring adult at a school
- **Positive School Climate:** Reinforcing an environment in which students want to engage in learning, are excited and connected to a diverse and peaceful peer network
- **After-School Programming:** Reinforcing key learning and development milestones that support learning efficacy such as positive peer relationships, school - family connection, and positive role modeling

In his recent remarks to City Year Chicago's 100 members, U.S. Sen. Richard J. Durbin commended these young people for the impact they will be making through their service.

“The single most important thing in changing our world is when one person cares about another person. You are going to spend a year caring about people - frankly, young people who wonder if anybody cares about them,” he observed. “The great thing about City Year is that, when it is all over, you are going to be providing a helping hand to a lot of folks, and you are going to get more out of it than you give. It is going to change your life in the process - for the better.”



Corps members and City Year Chicago Executive Director Lisa Morrison Butler pose with Dave Lawrence, chairman of the SERVE ILLINOIS Commission; Arne Duncan, CEO, Chicago Public Schools; U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin; and Steve Reimer, senior vice president, Comcast, Chicago Region

Volunteer Manager Associations and Affinity Groups

Association of Volunteer Administrators of Metropolitan Chicago

Fourth Tuesday of every month
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM
773.753.1382
matt.porth@msichicago.org

Council for Volunteerism

Second Thursday of every month, beginning
September 13, 2007
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
217.352.5151
lynn@uwayhelps.org
www.uwayhelps.org/volunteer/managers

DuPage Association of Volunteer Administration

Fourth Wednesday of every month
(except August, November & December)
630.963.1304
psemple@dgparks.org
www.dava-il.org

Land of Lincoln Professional Volunteer Managers Association

Second Tuesday of every month
NOON – 1:30 PM
217.786.2289
CVC@llcc.edu

Mid Central Illinois Volunteer Coordinators Association

McLean, DeWitt, and Livingston Counties
Selected Fridays of November, February, June
& September
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
309.827.0428
volunteers@mchistory.org

Mississippi Valley DOVIA

First Thursday in August, October &
December
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
www.mvdovia.org

Network of Volunteer Administrators (NOVA)

Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford County
Third Wednesday of every other month
309.467.9059
RSVP@maple-lawn.com



2007 SIVC Steering Committee: Front row, L to R, Melba Moorman, Heartland Regional Medical Center Auxiliary Volunteers (Marion); Sharon Kasten, Centralia Area Habitat for Humanity; Annette Pritchett, Shawnee Alliance for Seniors (Carterville); Lisa Tarpley, Shawnee Community College (Ullin); Georgia Smith, Shawnee Development Council (Karnak); Lauralyn Cima, John A Logan College (Carterville); Evelyn Stover, Kaskaskia College (Centralia); Judy Swinson, St. Mary's Good Samaritan, Inc. (Mt. Vernon); Co-Chair Scott Niermann, Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Springfield). Back row, L to R, Co-Chair Paul McKnight, University of Illinois Extension (Metropolis); Dave Warner, Rend Lake College/Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps (Ina)

The *2008 King Day of Service is January 21, 2008* – 40 years after Dr. King's assassination. This year, the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) would like to fully engage the national service network and launch the King Day of Service to a whole new level of success and impact. The Illinois Program Office of CNCS is bringing its partners together to share ideas and resources on a series of conference calls prior to the holiday.

For resources and tips, visit www.mlkday.gov. For more information about the Chicago area collaboration, contact John Hosteny at il@cns.gov or 312.353.1960.

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535 W. Jefferson Street, 3rd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62702.

By fax: 217.557.0515. By e-mail: DHS.SERVEIllinois@Illinois.gov

Upcoming Days of Service

November 15, 2007	World's Largest Thanksgiving Dinner www.4allstars.org/programs.html
November 17, 2007	National Family Volunteer Day www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nfvdg
December 5, 2007	International Volunteer Day www.worldvolunteerweb.org/int-l-volunteer-day.html
January 2008	National Mentoring Month www.mentoring.org/mentoring_month
January 21, 2008	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – “A day ON...not a day off.” www.mlkday.org



SERVE ILLINOIS is a publication of the *SERVE ILLINOIS* Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service. Send articles for submission and suggestions to:

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Illinois AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project: Meeting the needs for AmeriCorps Members of all backgrounds and abilities.

This material is based upon work supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service under AmeriCorps Grant No. 05PTHIL001. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation for National Service or the AmeriCorps program.



“Building Stronger Communities Through Service”

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 392
Springfield, IL

SERVE ILLINOIS
Commission on Volunteerism
and Community Service
Published by
PREVENTION FIRST
2800 Montvale Drive
Springfield, IL 62704